

Series: **Gospel of Mark**
Today's Title: **"Jesus Heals Bartimaeus"**

January 10, 2021 – *Mark 10:46-52* (Also: Matthew 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43 [*Zacchaeus 19:1-10*])

Objective: To help people have spiritual 'sight' to see and follow Jesus.

Brian & Gianna Engaged! Jan. 8, 2021

2020 Ministry Report

Opening prayer

Mark 8:18

"Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear?"

Spiritual sight – the ability to 'see' spiritual truth is not a matter of physical vision.

Spiritual sight is not a matter of attending church or doing spiritual things.

It's a matter of knowing Jesus.

It's about God opening your spiritual 'eyes' – to see and understand spiritual truth.

Ephesians 1:18

"Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened"

1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 14 - NLT

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him."

10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by His Spirit...

14 they are spiritually discerned."

Do you have spiritual sight? Spiritual vision?

Has God opened your ‘eyes’ to see His Son – Jesus – to know His Son – to put your faith in His Son?

Turn to Mark 10:46-52

In our passage today, we will see a blind man – who sees. And we’ll see people who can see – who are blind.

Read Mark 10:46-52

Begging for God’s mercy. vs. 46-48

Some historians and archeologists believe Jericho is “*the oldest continually occupied city in the world (since around 9000 B.C.).*” (Mark, Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Robert H. Stein, p. 493)

The modern-day city sits a few miles West of the Jordan River – in what’s known today as the West Bank.

Jericho sits at 825 feet below sea level, and the road to Jerusalem is about 14 miles, and a 3,500-foot elevation climb.

For thousands of years, it has been an important city – sitting at the intersection of major highways throughout the ages – a gateway city into Israel from the east.

We know from the other Gospel accounts that Jesus stayed in Jericho for a few days – although Mark’s account focuses on a brief moment in time and a special miracle.

This is the last healing miracle in Mark's Gospel – and it's the only miracle in which we know the name of the person who gets healed.

Bartimaeus – Bar (son of) Timeaus (his father's name).

We're told in **vs. 46** that this man – Bartimaeus – is a blind man – and a beggar.

We don't know if he was born blind – or if he's blind due to an accident or illness.

We do know that in 1st century Jewish culture that blindness was seen as a curse or judgment from God.

The disciples believed this as evidenced by their questions to Jesus in **John 9**:

John 9:2

“...who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Blind people were reduced to begging – they were at the bottom of the social ladder – just above tax collectors.

Interesting...in Jericho, Jesus heals a blind man – and has dinner with a tax collector – Zacchaeus! (Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus is walking – along with a “great crowd” was with Him – the implication is they were following Him.

This “great crowd” may be due to Jesus' popularity – or with the Passover being about 1 week away – and pilgrims from all over would be making their way to Jerusalem and the Temple for the huge celebration and observance.

Religious activity does not always equal religious affection or insight.

There are millions and millions of Christians in the world today – busy with religious stuff – but far from Christ.

As the disciples and the “great crowd” are moving past the area where Bartimaeus was sitting, he heard that “Jesus of Nazareth” was coming.

Somehow, he knew who Jesus was...he had heard about the miracles and teaching of Jesus.

Some believe the chronology in the Gospels places the raising of Lazarus in this general time – a few weeks before Passover. Lazarus and his sisters lived in Bethany – which was a town near Jerusalem – and there is no doubt that when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead the news would have certainly spread quickly to Jericho.

The word on the street is “Jesus of Nazareth” is coming.

But “Jesus of Nazareth” simply speaks to His hometown – it says nothing of His deity – or His lineage to David – or His identity as the Messiah (Christ).

But Bartimaeus doesn't yell out “Jesus of Nazareth” ... he yells out “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

“Son of David” was a title for the Messiah – the Christ.

Luke 1:31-32

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David...”

“have mercy on me!”

If Bartimaeus believed his blindness was a judgment from God, he’s asking Jesus to remove the punishment – judgment he’s been living with.

The people with physical vision referred to Jesus as “Jesus from Nazareth” – unaware of His actual identity – they were spiritually blind – even though they could see. Bartimaeus was physically blind, but he could ‘see’ who Jesus was!

He had spiritual ‘eyes’ and he yells out: “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Can you see Jesus?

Do you know who Jesus is?

He is Lord and Savior!!!

Then we see all these religious people – stifling spiritual insight.

They tell Bartimaeus to stop yelling – to be quiet.

But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Why was he so insistent to get Jesus’ attention?

1) He was blind – and he wanted to be healed.

2) This might be the only time he ever gets a chance to ‘see’ / talk with Jesus!!!

Spiritual opportunity.

When you have spiritual ‘eyes’ – spiritual ‘*vision*’ – you see the spiritual opportunities in life.

You recognize the moment – that God is working / calling you / nudging you.

If you’re here today – if you’re watching on-line – God is working / calling you / nudging you.

This is a spiritual opportunity for you – a spiritual moment!

Do you recognize it?

Do you ‘see’ it?

“And Jesus stopped” – The disciples and the crowd are not on the same page as Jesus.

This is a blind beggar – a worthless person in the eyes of society – under God’s judgment – but “Jesus stopped”.

It doesn’t matter what you’ve done – or how underserving you think you are.

Jesus stops for you too.

God love you.

He loves you so much He died for you – gave His life so you could have eternal life.

God incarnate gives mercy to the least. vs. 49-52

When the man was told that Jesus was calling him – his excitement is visible – “throwing off his cloak, he sprang up”.
When he gets to Jesus, Jesus asks him a question.

vs. 51 - “What do you want Me to do for you?”

Do you remember where we last heard this same question? **vs. 36.** “What do you want Me to do for you?”

What do you want God to do for you?

Money? Power? Bigger home? Relationship?

Forgiveness?

Grace and mercy?

Bartimaeus’ answer was simple – and direct:

vs. 51b - “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.”

Luke 18:41 “Lord, let me recover my sight.”

“Lord” – a Greek word (*kurios*) which means ‘master / lord’

Bartimaeus replies with terms of honor – respect – humility. It seems he has a better sense of who Jesus is than the disciples do!!!!

Jesus – being called ‘Master’ – ‘Lord’ – has taken the form and posture of a servant when He asked: “What do you want Me to do for you?” (**vs. 51**)

Jesus – the Messiah – the King – does what the beggar asks.

vs. 52 - “...your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight...

“has made you well” = Gr: *Sozo* = saved

It's likely that Mark uses this term to indicate Bartimaeus is not only physically healed, but spiritually saved.

Matthew 20:34 – Jesus touched his eyes

Luke 18:43

“And immediately he recovered his sight and followed Him, glorifying God.”

Notice the result of his healing.

- He can now see – he can work – earn a living – live without needing the help of others.
- He knows who Jesus is – and he decides to follow Jesus.
- Bartimaeus is going to Jerusalem – to Passover.
- He will see the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and Jesus hailed as the Son of David.
- He will see the religious establishment argue with Jesus throughout the week – and have Him arrested in the Garden of Eden.
- He will see Jesus mocked, spit on, flogged & killed (vs. 34).
- He will see Jesus buried.
- He will see Jesus resurrected from the dead!

Many believe the reason Mark records Bartimaeus' name is because scholars think he may have been part of the early church.

People would have known this man – as they heard Mark's Gospel read to them.

Apply it...

How is your spiritual sight?

When I go to the eye doctor, I'm asked to do a lot of comparing.

'Is the first one better...or is the second one better?'

Getting the right prescription for your glasses is crucial if your glasses are going to help you see with clarity and focus.

Getting your spiritual sight dialed in is the most important vision you can ever have!

Do you see Jesus?

Do you know who Jesus is?

What are you asking Jesus to do for you?

Many of you here...or watching...have spiritual sight – you know Jesus – you've asked Him to forgive you – to give you grace and mercy.

But...

Are you following Jesus?

Do other people know that you're a follower of Christ?

Luke 18:43b

"And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God."

Close in prayer